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TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

Lesson No. 5

BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM

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Lesson Five

SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS

Begin this lesson by examining carefully, as a whole and in detail, Key 1, the Magician. Review the meanings of the number 1, given in Lesson 2.

Everything represented in the symbolism of this Key is a development of ideas associated with this number. The Magician typifies the beginning or inception of the process whereby the limitless possibilities of the Life-power are brought into expression as manifested actualities. The Key represents the **initiation** of the creative process on all planes.

In human personality the creative process is begun by self-consciousness, sometimes called objective mind. Self-consciousness is the distinctively human aspect of mental activity. Objective mind is the waking mind you are using to read these words.

Self-consciousness initiates the creative process by formulating premises or seed-ideas. Subconsciousness accepts these as **suggestions**, which it elaborates by the process of deduction, and carries out in modifications of mental and emotional attitudes, and in definite changes of bodily function and structure.

The two sentences you have just read outline a process of utmost importance. You use it continually, whether or not you know you do, because it is the basis of your intellectual knowledge, and the determinant of the state of your physical health.

All your physical and mental states are results of your mental imagery. When you thoroughly understand what is implied by the statement that any mental image tends to materialize itself as an actual condition or event, you have the clue to success in occult practice.

Geometrically, the number 1 is a point, particularly the **central point**. In The Pattern on the Trestleboard, the statement attributed to 1 is: "I am a **center of expression** for the Primal Will-to-good which eternally creates and sustains the universe." The beginning of the creative process is the concentration of the Life-power at a center, and its expression through that center.

The sun of our solar system is such a center. It transmits the Life-power as radiant energy which man may utilize in ways innumerable.

This idea is shown in two ways by the letter Beth (ב), printed on Key 1. Ancient forms of this character represented an arrow-head, and in Greek the name for this implement was **kentron,** whence come the English words **center** and **concentration.** The letter-name Beth means "house," which is a definite location used as an abode. In the sense used here, it refers to whatever form may be termed a dwelling-place for Spirit, and the form particularly referred to in this lesson is human personality.

Personality is a center through which the Spirit or real Self of man expresses itself. Do not be abstract about this. Think of **your** personality as a center of expression for your own inner Self. Try to realize that this was what Jesus meant when he said: "The Father who dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

The title of this Key, the Magician, identifies the picture with Hermes or Mercury who presided over magic. You will remember that Mercury was messenger of the gods and in this capacity served to **transmit** or **express** their wisdom and power.

This correspondence to Hermes is connected also with another meaning of 1, which, as representing singleness, and therefore isolation, stands also for privacy and concealment, and thus for occult or hidden knowledge. Magic is the art of transformation and it is closely allied to the Hermetic art, alchemy.

In human personality, self-consciousness is the transformer. It, and it only, is able to set in motion forces which bring about change, variation, etc. The fundamental magical practice is concentration—one-pointed attention to some selected area of one's environment.

For example, two people wake up to find that it is raining. The first person gives attention to unhappy associations and expectations connected with rain. He will think how dreary the sky looks. He will cringe from getting wet. He will stimulate subconscious processes associated with depression and hopelessness. It will have a deleterious effect on his bodily condition as well as emanating forces which make for poor relationship with his environment. The second person gives attention to happy associations and expectations connected with rain. He sees the rain washing the faces of the flowers and trees. He rejoices that the plants are drinking from the water of Life and that the conditions for the sustenance of all creatures is herein provided. As he goes out of doors, his heart is lifted in gratitude to the Lord of Life. The rain droplets caress his cheeks. He is stimulating subconscious processes associated with richness and joy. It will have a healing effect on his bodily condition. He is emanating a force—the **same** force. But in this case it brings harmonious and fulfilling relationship with his environment. He is **living** the Magician.

The practice of concentration enables one to perceive the inner nature of the object of his attention. This leads to the discovery of natural principles. By applying these, one is able to change his conditions. Hence concentration helps us solve our problems. Thus we may understand why alchemists wrote: "Our Mercury enables us to prepare the universal solvent."

The higher phases of the art which begins with concentration are those which have to do with the underlying principles of human existence. Thus one reason you are using Tarot Keys as objects for concentration is that they represent basic modes of human consciousness.

Learn the following definition: **Concentration is the collection, at a center or focus, of units of power.** These are always units of the Life-power because every unit of force in the universe, regardless of what form it takes, is a manifestation of that One Force.

Understand that you do not concentrate **attention.** Attention is only the means that enables you to concentrate units of mental force. The result is that you intensify this energy so that you may direct it usefully.

When you intensify the rays of the sun by means of a convex lens, they will burn your hand if you direct them upon it. If you place your hand in the sunshine passing through a pane of window-glass, the result is merely a slight sensation of warmth. Never forget that when you practice concentration you are working with a **real force.**

Note the posture of the Magician. With his right hand he draws down power from above. With his left hand he makes a gesture of concentration. He is directing power drawn from higher levels to planes below that of his self-conscious existence.

He does this for a specific reason. This picture shows clearly the magical process involved in an understanding of the correct practice of concentration.

The plane below the Magician is represented as a garden which is a symbol of subconsciousness. When you concentrate you seek always to impress some definite image on subconsciousness to the end that you may bring about some particular modification of subconscious activity, one selected in advance.

One important point to observe is that the Magician himself is not active. He stands perfectly still. He is a channel for a power which comes from above his level, and after passing through him, that power sets up a reaction at a lower level than his.

As in the illustration of the convex lens, the lens, though it is the agency which intensifies the rays of the sun, does nothing of itself. Self-consciousness in concentration is not itself active. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the old Hebrew name for the mode of consciousness represented by the Magician is Intelligence of Transparency, clearly intimating that self-consciousness effects transformations because something works **through** it.

Again, the digit 1, as the beginning of the numeral series, is the sign of a thing standing in relation to other things. What stands in relation to other things is connected with them by various links or bonds. Magic is the science of hidden relationships. The practice of magic is based on the law of correspondence expressed in the Hermetic axiom: "That which is above is as that which is below, and that which is below is as that which is above."

The bond between things is fundamentally their **co-existence** as manifestations of the Life-power. All things are governed by one great Law. All things are masks of appearance for a single Reality. All things are parts of one great Whole from which nothing can be detached.

Whatever is done to a part affects the whole. In human relationships this is unalterably true. Therefore was it said: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Magic is the art which produces effects by mastery of the secret forces of nature. It is the science of Zoroaster and of Hermes—the science of which all other sciences are but branches, the science which sent its representatives to pay homage to the Child of Bethlehem.

Magic is the science of initiation. An initiator is one who has mastered this hidden science of causes. He knows how to direct the universal creative force so as to bring about, by methods which seem miraculous to those who do not know the secret, the full realization and physical embodiment of the aims and purposes expressed by his mental imagery.

A perfected magician uses his objective mind, or self-consciousness, in the manner depicted by this Tarot Key. Endeavor, therefore, as you color the picture, to impress all its details on your memory. In the next lesson you will find their significance explained. For the coming week, concern yourself only with the coloring and with getting the picture, as a whole and in detail, into your mind.

COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

KEY 1. THE MAGICIAN

Yellow:	Background, spearhead on table, lily stamens.
Green:	Foliage.
Blue-green:	The serpent girdle.
Brown:	Table.
White:	Inner garment, headband, spear shaft, uplifted wand, lily flowers.
Gold:	Pentacle or coin on table, sword hilt, circle at end of spear shaft.
Silver:	Cup.
Steel:	Sword blade. (Mix a little blue with gray.)
Red:	Outer garment, roses.

Read this lesson once daily during your practice period. Be sure to look at the Key for five minutes in beginning the period. In this lesson there is enough material for a great deal of careful study. Do not slight it after one or two readings because you think you understand it.